

Assalaamu alaykum Respected Mufti

Insha- Allah, my husband and I intend to perform Hajj and I have a few questions.

1) When visiting the qabr of Rasoolullah (S.A.W), should one wear a niqaab as I have heard that Nabi (S.A.W) can see one who is offering salutations?  
Also, does one need to wear a niqaab when making tawaaf?

2) During the 5 days of Hajj, should one wear a peak cap with the niqaab or should the niqaab be omitted?

3) How do you know if your stone hits the jamarat?

4) Can a female read salaah behind the Imams of 2 harams? - Is it better to read salaah in one's room or to read salaah in the haram, once the Imam has completed with salaah in jamaat?

5) Is it permissible to hold your husband's hand during tawaaf or at anytime during the 5 days, for fear of getting lost?

6) I read in a kitaab that one is not allowed to brush one's hair or open one's plaits during the 5 days of hajj. What is the reason for this?

7) Are there any good ziyarat ~~place~~ books to read about the ziyarat places?

8) Can you use the green sunlight soap while in the state of Ihraam?

Maaf for the lengthy letter.

Jazaakallahu khair.  
Wa-alaykumus-salaam.  
Faiza Mia

Dear Faiza Mia:

Assalaamu alaykum

Your queries refer. I have included a copy of your questions so that you can refer to them when reading the answers.

- 1) Yes you should wear a niqaab when visiting the Roudha-e-Mubarak, because it is not as people say, that The Messenger of Allah sees the visitors. In any case, females don't come very close to the grave when they make their salaam.
- 2) The niqaab should not be omitted. You might find this strange, but I have now come to the conclusion that it is even more important for a woman to wear her niqaab when travelling for Hajj and Umrah. We have heard of some unpleasant incidents that happened in Makka and Madina when women walked around without niqaab or without a mehram. So use the peak cap or something similar and the niqaab can hang over it.
- 3) When stoning the jamaat it is not necessary for the stone to hit the jamaraat. Many people have this misconception that the stone must strike the jamaraat. Instead, the sunnat method of pelting is to lob the stone without much force so that it lands at the base of the jamaraat. If the pebble falls within a range of three arm lengths (approximately 1.3 metres) from the Jamarah, the pelting will be valid. If it falls this distance or more away from the Jamarah, it will not be valid. One arm's length is from the tips of the fingers till the elbow. Therefore, if one throws the stone with force and it strikes the jamaat and bumps back and lands more than 1.3 meters from the base of the Jamaaat, that pelting will not be valid. So remember this well. The stone does not need to hit the jamaraat; it must be dropped at the base of the pillar.
- 4) It is better for a female to offer her salah in her room, not in the haram, even if she does not follow the Imam. In fact, I would be more inclined to issue a fatwa of prohibition of this in view of the reason given in number 2 above.
- 5) Holding the husband's hand during tawaaf is permissible. However, if you are a Shaaafi then your wudhu will obviously break. To overcome this, the Shaaafi Ulema have allowed the female to make taqleed of the Hanafi math-hab just for the tawaaf so that touching the husband will not nullify her wudhu, since wudhu is an important condition for tawaaf. This means that when you intend making tawaaf with the

husband then the wudhu should be done in accordance with the Hanafi math-hab. This is a normal wudhu but make full masah of the head, not just a few strands, because the Hanafi has to make masah of at least a quarter of the head.

- 6) The reason for not brushing the hair and opening plaits is to avoid the danger of hair falling off, for this will necessitate a sadqah. Due to the long hair a woman keeps, strands of hair always fall off from her head. Remember that during Ihraam one cannot remove hair; hence one should not do anything that will cause hair to fall off. If hair falls off without one's action, then there is no sadaqa for this.
- 7) I shall look at the books on ziyarat that we have available. If I have extra copies I shall give them to you, insha Allah. Give me a reminder some time next week.
- 8) That green sunlight soap may be used because it does not contain scent or perfume.
- 9) No need to ask maaf for long letters. It's my duty to answer all questions on Deen. It is **I** who must apologise for the delay. Please make me maaf.

Another advice related to what I mentioned in answer number 2, don't walk around in Makka and Madinah for shopping or for whatever purpose without your husband or a mehram. And try to always have your niqaab on.

May Allah make your hajj easy, accept it, and make it mabroor. May Allah grant your whole family all the blessings of the Haramayn and the Hajj, aameen.

Was-salaam

S. Desai